

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 5, 2006. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the subject application.

In the Office Action, claim 27 was rejected under a provisional obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1, 3-5 and 10 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/716,859. Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer to obviate the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection, and thus, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this outstanding rejection.

Comments on Statement for Reason for Allowance

Applicants are assuming that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is to be taken in light of the structure and interaction recited in the claims. Applicants note that the Examiner's various comments should not be used to read non-existent limitations into the claims.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 6, 2006

By


William W. Schaal

Reg. No. 39,018

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

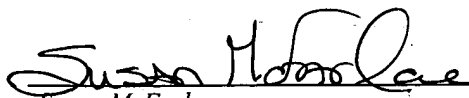
MAILING

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, PO-Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 3/6/2006

FACSIMILE

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office.


Susan McFarlane

3/6/2006

Date